



October 10, 2018

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

The Confidentiality Coalition applauds the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's efforts to examine consumer data privacy.

We are broad group of organizations—hospitals, medical teaching colleges, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, vendors of electronic health records, biotech firms, employers, health product distributors, pharmacies, pharmacy benefit managers, health information and research organizations, clinical laboratories, patient groups, home care providers, and others—working to ensure that we as a nation find the right balance between the protection of confidential health information and the efficient and interoperable systems needed to provide the very best quality of care.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) established acceptable uses and disclosures of individually-identifiable health information within healthcare delivery and payment systems for the privacy and security of health information. The Confidentiality Coalition believes that to the extent not already provided under HIPAA, privacy rules should apply to all individuals and organizations that create, compile, store, transmit, or use personal health information. As the committee explores consumer data privacy in the context of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation and the California Consumer Privacy Act, the coalition encourages a privacy framework that is consistent nationally and includes similar expectations of acceptable uses and disclosures for non-HIPAA covered health information, as it is paramount to maintain consumer trust.

Thank you for examining this important issue and please feel free to reach out to Tina Olson Grande, Senior Vice President for Policy at the Healthcare Leadership Council on behalf of the Confidentiality Coalition, at (202) 449-3433 or tgrande@hlc.org with any questions. Enclosed you will find information on the Confidentiality Committee and a list of coalition members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina O. Grande".

Tina Olson Grande
Healthcare Leadership Council
on behalf of the Confidentiality Coalition